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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /014 W
---------- 101152
P 140843Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7961

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0235

STATE FOR EB/CSB/OCA ANTHONY WALLACE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, BGEN, EPAP, MA, US
SUBJ: MESSAGE FOR U.S. BUSINESS FIRM; CYCLONE DAMAGE TO VANILLA
IN MADAGASCAR

REF: WALLACE/DE SANTILLANA COVERSATION YAOUNDE

1. EMBASSY FEB. 13 RECEIVED TELEX FROM ZINK AND TRIEST COMPANY, 30 COMMERCE DRIVE, MONTGOVERYVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, ONE OF THE LARGEST U.S. IMPORTERS OF NATURAL VANILLA, REQUESTING ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION CONCERNING DAMAGE CAUSED TO VANILLA STOCKS AND PRODUCTION IN MADAGASCAR BY CYCLONE JAN. 22. MALAGASY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE RECENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBASSY ABOUT THIS FIRM FOR FIRM'S REPORTED DELAY OR FAILURE TO MAKE PURCHASES OF MALAGASY VANILLA PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON. REQUEST YOU PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MR. DAVID B. DAUGHERTY, PRESIDENT, ZINK AND TRIEST COMPANY, (TELEPHONE AC 215-643-6677) IN REPLY TO HIS TELEX, WITH FOLLOW UP PHONE CALL IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL.

2. QTE VANILLA-PRODUCING REGIONS OF NORTHEAST MADAGASCAR STRUCK BY CYCLONE DANAE JAN. 22. REPORTS ON LOSSES INCOMPLETE AND CONFLICTING. DIRECTOR OF VANILLA STABILIZATION BOARD REPORTS HE UNABLE TO ESTIMATE EXTENT OF LOSSES TO PRODUCTION OR STOCKS. ALSO REPORTS IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS THAT PORT OF ANTALA IS BLOCKED BY CYCLONE DAMAGE AND VANILLA WILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT OUT BY AIR, ADDING TO FOB COST. ONE BANKER JUST RETURNED FROM REGION REPORTS LOSSES TO STOCKS AT ANTALA, SAMBAVA, AND VOHEMAR RANGE
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UP TO 40 PERCENT; LOSSES TO PRODUCTION UP TO 50 PERCENT. ANOTHER

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SOURCE, A LOCAL VANILLA EXPORTER WHO ALSO VISITED REGION, REPORTS
ONLY 60 TONS OF STOCKS DEFINITELY DAMAGED BY SALT WATER AND DAMAGE
TO BEANS PROBABLY LESS THAN FEARED. RELIABLE ESTIMATES OF DAMAGE
TO PRODUCTION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR A MONTH OR SO UNTIL
VINES CAN BE SURVEYED IN DETAIL.

3. QTE ON RELATED SUBJECT, MALAGASY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE
HAS RECENTLY ASKED EMBASSY TO INQUIRE WHETHER YOUR FIRM PLANS
TO MAKE ANTICIPATED PURCHASE OF 200-300 TONS OF VANILLA BEFORE
END OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING YEAR MARCH 31. MALAGASY GOVERN-
MENT GREATLY INTERESTED IN THIS INFORMATION TO PLAN FUTURE VANILLA
PRODUCTION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECEIPTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY INDICATION OF YOUR PLANS ON THIS MATTER WE COULD PASS ON
TO THE DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE. UNQTE.SHEINBAUM

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